

What is claimed is:

1. A method of discriminating between orders, comprising:
evaluating a queue of orders based on whether each prescription within the order can be filled in an automated manner; and
determining a set of workstations for each prescription based on said evaluating.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein for orders that can be filled entirely in an automated manner, said determining a set of workstations excludes a pharmacist review workstation.
3. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising selecting an appropriate sized end user container, printing and applying a label to said container, inserting the labeled container into a carrier, and routing the carrier among the determined set of workstations.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said routing includes routing the carrier from a dispensing workstation, to an imaging workstation, and to a capping workstation.
5. The method of claim 4 additionally comprising tracking multiple prescriptions that belong to one order and grouping all the prescriptions that belong to one order for shipping.
6. The method of claim 4 additionally comprising routing the carrier to a packing workstation where a patient specific document is printed and inserted into a labeled bag along with the patient's prescription.
7. A method of operating a prescription filling facility of the type having automated equipment and non-automated equipment for filling prescriptions, the improvement comprising identifying an order that can be filled with automated equipment and routing at least one container to be filled for said order in a manner that eliminates a review of the order by a pharmacist.
8. The method of claim 7 additionally comprising determining a set of workstations for each prescription comprising said order identified as being fillable with automated equipment.

9. A method of operating a prescription filling line of the type having automated equipment and non-automated equipment for filling prescriptions, comprising:

- evaluating a queue of orders based on whether each prescription within each order can be filled in an automated manner;

- selecting an appropriate sized end user container;

- printing and applying a label to said container;

- inserting the labeled container into a carrier;

- routing the carrier to a prescription filling station;

- routing the carrier to an imaging workstation; and

- where said order has been filled by automated equipment, routing each carrier for said order to a packing workstation without a review by a pharmacist, and where said order has at least one prescription filled by non-automated equipment, routing each carrier for said order to a pharmacist workstation before routing each carrier to the packing workstation.